



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS AND DECISION RECORD

(EA) Number EA-03-009
Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Reconfiguration of the
Trans-Alaska Pipeline System
January 30, 2004

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS: Based on an analysis of the environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts to the human environment are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required for the reasons stated below under Rationale.

DECISION:

The attached environmental assessment is tiered off the final environmental impact statement, *Renewal of the Federal Grant for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way*, BLM-AK-PT-03-005+2880+990, November 2002, which concluded there was no significant adverse environmental impacts from reconfiguration of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System pump stations. Therefore, no EIS will be prepared for the proposed reconfiguration of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

RATIONALE:

The environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed reconfiguration of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) discusses the potential environmental effects of strategic reconfiguration of the pump stations for the TAPS. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC), as operator of the TAPS, and the TAPS Owners are considering several changes to the current pump station configurations to allow the flexibility to adapt to changes in crude oil transportation through the TAPS, throughput decline, technological improvements, and optimization of support infrastructure and resource utilization. The *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Renewal of the Federal Grant for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way* (TAPS FEIS) discusses the impacts of operations of the TAPS as currently configured. It also discusses impacting factors associated with potential upgrades, such as the pump station reconfigurations, in Section 4.2.2.6. The TAPS FEIS concluded that there were no probable significant adverse environmental impacts from TAPS Right-of-Way (ROW) reauthorization (including reconfiguration of the pump stations) and the continued operation of the TAPS for an additional 30 years. The EA expands on the information presented in the TAPS FEIS, as more detailed information on the reconfiguration has become available.

The environmental assessment was prepared to identify and evaluate the probable environmental impacts of the TAPS reconfiguration project. The project would occur entirely within the established TAPS ROW, for which the original Federal Agreement and Grant of Right-of-Way was recently extended for a second 30-year period. The probable environmental impacts of the TAPS ROW renewal were analyzed in the TAPS FEIS, which provides a thorough and recent environmental analysis. Therefore, the EA incorporates by reference relevant sections of the FEIS.

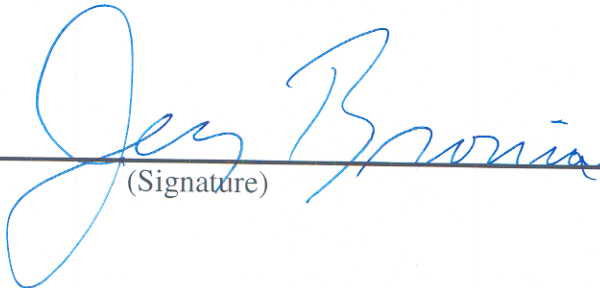
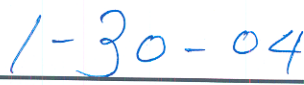
The proposed reconfiguration of the TAPS pump stations is described in the EA with assumptions current as of January 2004. Reconfiguration of the TAPS pump stations would consist of installation of new equipment and facilities (including replacement of the turbine-driven mainline pumps with electric-driven mainline pumps), new on-site electric power generation facilities (or use of commercially available electric power), and greater automation through upgrades to the electrical and control systems. The operations of the reconfigured TAPS would include the implementation of a regional center concept for maintenance and oil spill response.

Impacts associated with the installation and modification of equipment on the existing pump stations would be predominantly negative, but short-term and local. Short-term, minor air quality and soils impacts would occur due to fugitive dust emissions from earth disturbances and transportation. Other short-term and minor impacts associated with pump station reconfiguration would include increases in water use, wastewater generation, noise, and hazardous and domestic waste production. Because of the localized nature of the activities on an already developed site and the short duration of the activities, fish and threatened and endangered species would not be impacted. Birds and mammals using the pump stations as habitat would be disturbed during construction activities. Impacts on subsistence resources would be negligible, as no new access or roadways would be needed. Cultural resources and land use would not be affected. Short-term slight increases in impacts on visual resources may occur during reconfiguration activities.

Delivery of equipment, transportation of the workforce, and removal of wastes would have a minor and short-term impact on traffic on adjacent highways. Short-term positive socioeconomic impacts would occur, as more jobs would be needed during installation and modification of equipment and during transition.

In general, the operation of the new equipment after reconfiguration would reduce overall environmental impacts of continued operation. Air emissions would be reduced, leading to air quality improvements. A reduction in requirements for liquid turbine fuel delivered by truck would likely reduce risk of spills associated with such delivery and would reduce traffic volumes of heavy-duty commercial vehicles. In addition, no appreciable impacts to vegetation or biological resources would occur. The economic impacts of reconfiguration would be minor, with some redistribution or decrease in workforce, leading to changes in state employment of less than 0.5%. Hiring of Alaska Native workers would continue in the agreed-to proportions. Operation of the reconfigured pipeline on subsistence resource use would likely be negligible.

Amendments have been made to the *Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Pipeline Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan*. APSC submitted amendments to the plan to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the Joint Pipeline Office July 1, 2003, and the amendments were approved on December 31, 2003. The plan is a critical element to reconfiguration of the pipeline system.

(Signature) (Date)

Jerry Brossia
Authorized Officer
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Office of Pipeline Monitoring

Attachment: *Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Reconfiguration of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (EA-03-009)*